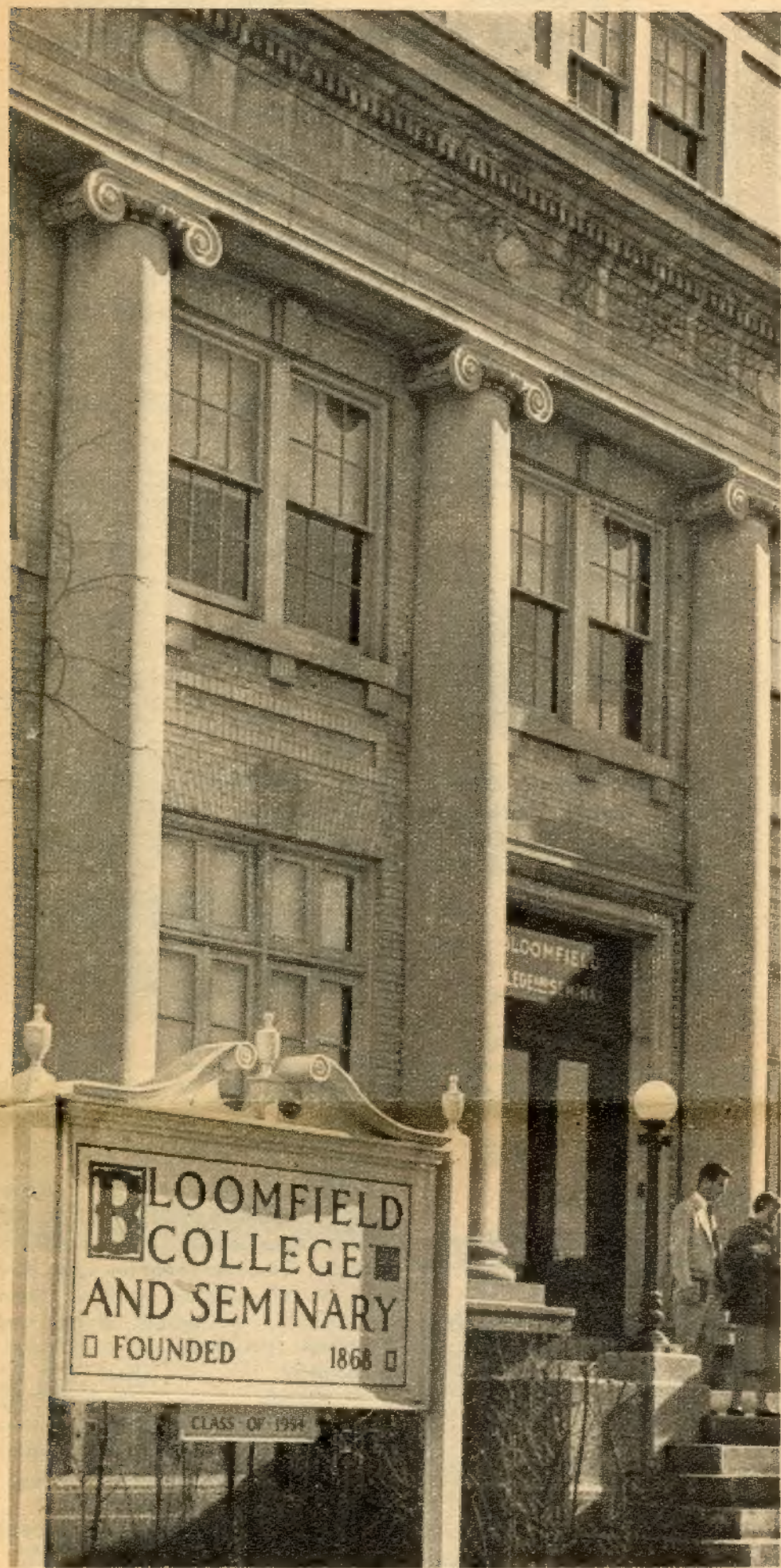


NEW JERSEY COLLEGES:



Knox Hall, last "new" building on the campus, was started in 1913 when the school assumed name of Bloomfield Theological Seminary.

MOST passersby saw the deep slash in the earth in Bloomfield as just another excavation last fall, but that excavation sent Bloomfield College & Seminary into raptures. So much so that The Bloomfield Bulletin (an official college publication) used a thick black headline to exult:

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT IN THE WORLD!

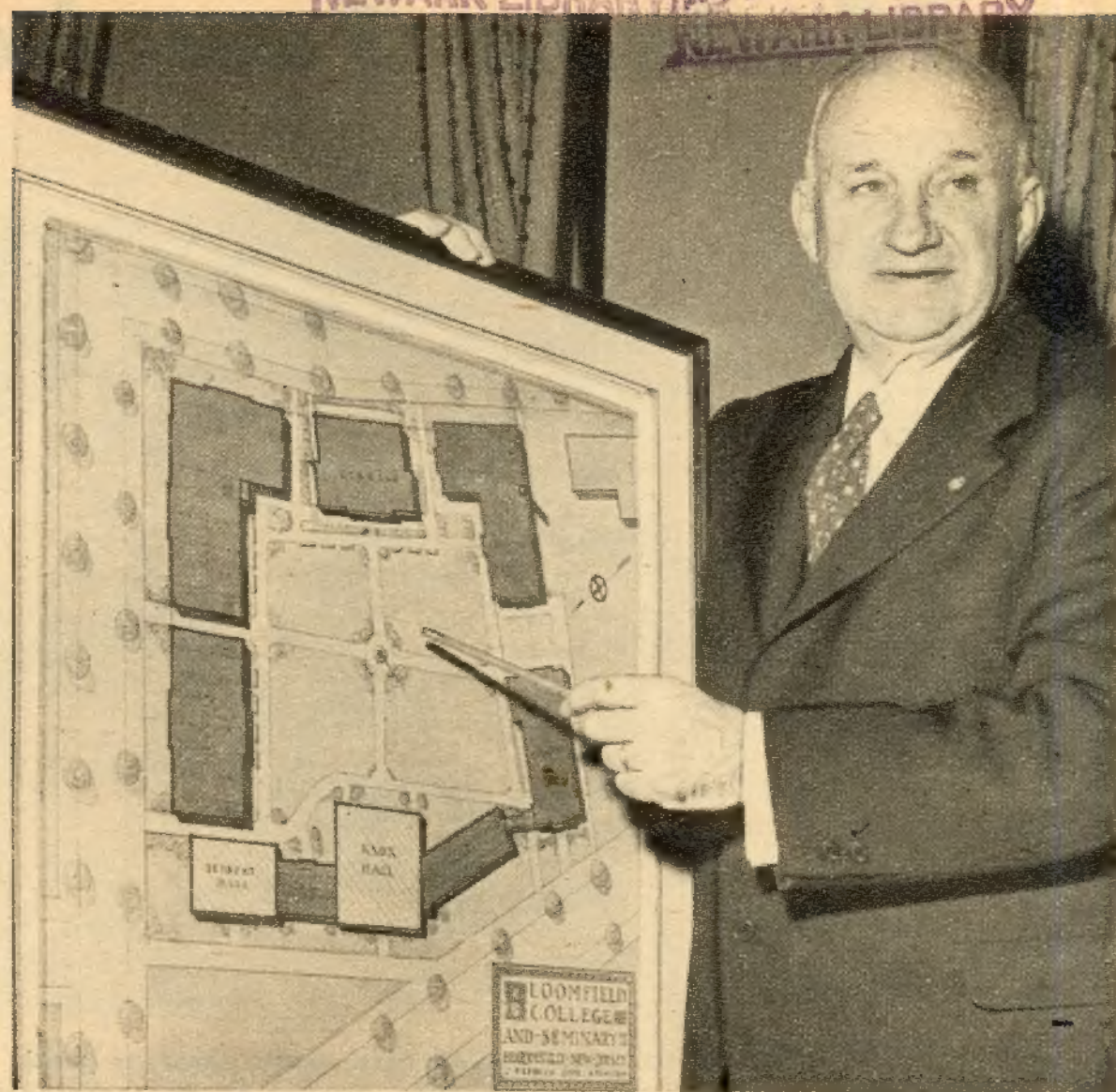
"Neither the Vale of Cashmere nor Lake Louise can compare with this 'hole in the ground' to the friends of Bloomfield," the Bulletin said. This "hole in the ground" was for the new library—the first new building on the Bloomfield campus since 1913. Beauty is as beauty does; this excavation may move Bloomfield College well out of the depths to which cruel years had tumbled it.

Even before bulldozers tore into the long still campus at 467 Franklin St., Bloomfield, had climbed. The fact that it hadn't reached great heights stemmed not from the fact that it hadn't ascended but from the fact that it started from so low. This, after all, is an institution which had gone to its own funeral in 1944—an institution which received one last chance to gasp for life just before they lowered the coffin.

AFFILIATED with the Presbyterian Church since its founding in 1868, Bloomfield College & Seminary awaited interment at the church's General Assembly in 1944. The Assembly heard cold clear facts which showed continuance of the institution would be folly. It heard an impassioned plea for continuance, with sentiment the chief weapon used against logic. When the Assembly voted on whether to continue or discontinue the 76-year-old school, sentiment edged logic—by eight votes out of nearly 950 cast.

The margin scarcely could be hailed as a ringing vote of confidence

but at least Bloomfield College & Seminary lived. Dr. Frederick Schweitzer, called as president of the near-dead institution, counted his assets. He found a decrepit campus and a student body of 32 students about equally divided between college and seminary. The treasury showed an annual income of \$3,600 over and



Dr. Frederick Schweitzer, president, with architect's impression of campus of future. Indicated are library, Seibert and Knox Halls.

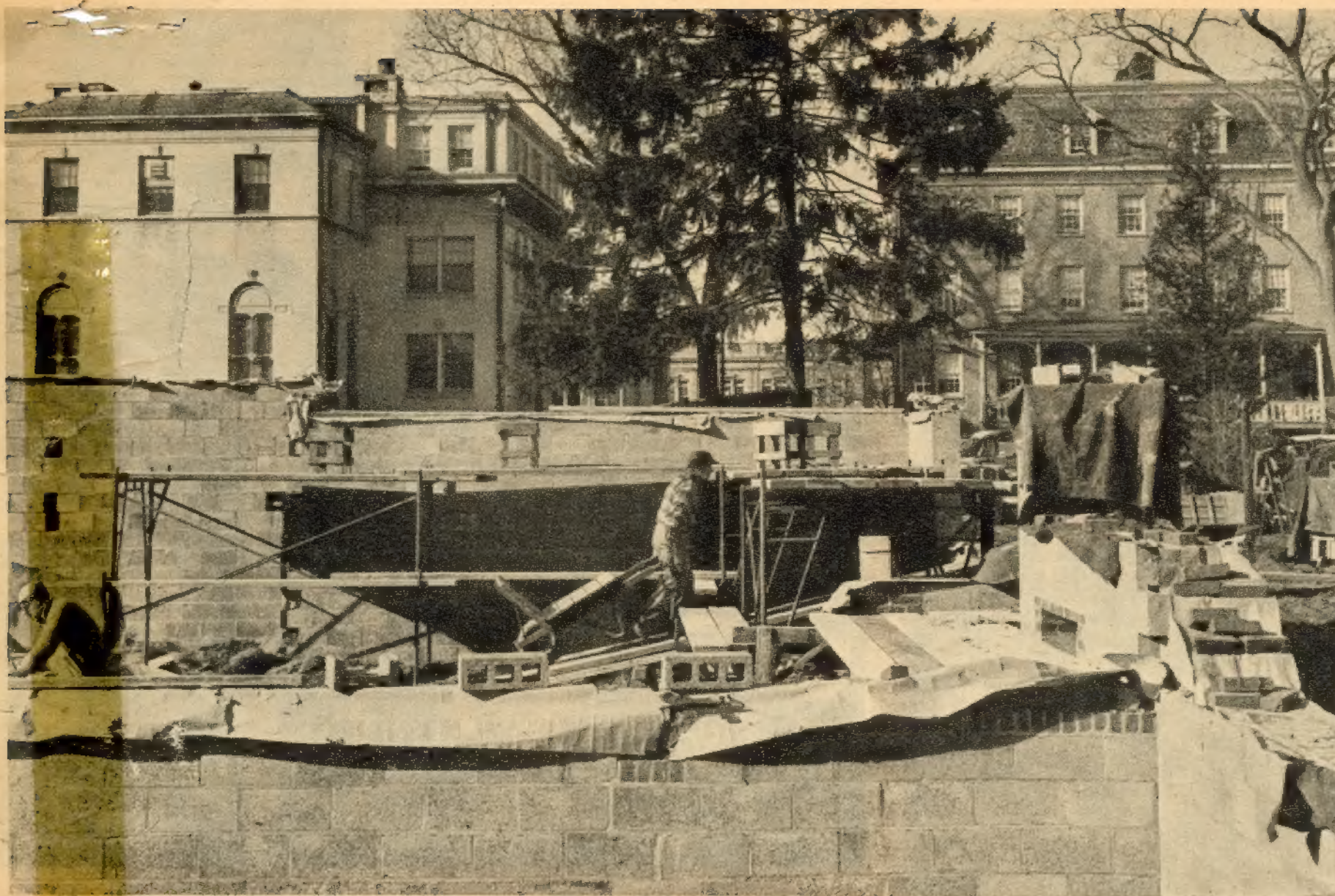
EXCAVATING for HIGHER EDUCATION

'Most Beautiful Sight' for Friends of Bloomfield College and Seminary Was a 'Hole in Ground' for New Library—First Building to Rise on Campus Since 1913

By JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

This is the 15th of a series of articles which not only describe New Jersey's colleges and universities, but tell the story of the growth and traditions of individual colleges within the state, picture their roles in modern education and explain how they plan to meet what has been called "an impending tide of students."

Next Sunday: Seton Hall University.



Bloomfield Academy building (erected in 1810). The Seminary's fame spread, and young Germans came to Bloomfield from all the centers of American Germandom—Newark, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Milwaukee—and from the Fatherland itself.

Eventually hordes of immigrants reached America from lands other than Germany, and in 1890 German Theological Seminary opened its doors to Bohemians and Italians. The same year President Charles E. Knox took cognizance of the fact that second generation German-Americans wanted services in English; graduates received training in both languages.

Other nationalities soon looked to German Theological Seminary for help—Hungarians, Poles, Russians, Ruthenians, Ukrainians, Spaniards and up to as many as 15 different nationalities in a given year. The 1913 commencement made the point clear; none of the graduates was German. Trustees that year changed the name to Bloomfield Theological Seminary but bi-lingual training went on and Bloomfield earned a world-wide reputation for its unique training.

Pressing needs for bi-lingual ministers ebbed as descendants of the old immigrants insisted on English-language services. Seeking diversifi-

(Continued on Following Page)

above tuition and endowment. The General Assembly's public to-be-or-not-to-be debate hadn't boosted morale.

Assets? Life alone had to be considered the most precious asset of the moment. Time ate into even that; the General Assembly gave Dr. Schweitzer just five years to get the institution firmly on its feet. The funeral hadn't been canceled—merely postponed.

Now, looking back on those incredibly dismal days, Dr. Schweitzer can say with a reminiscent smile: "We didn't start from scratch; we started far back of scratch."

SCRATCH, for that matter, may have been reached only when the first "beautiful" building excavation started last fall. Sometime this spring, if all goes well (meaning finances), earthmovers again will rip the campus, this time for a new gymnasium. Thus, next fall (again granting that all goes well) incoming Bloomfield students will work and play and grow in two fine new buildings.

The need for new buildings is felt on every college campus in the land, but nowhere is the need more desperate than in Bloomfield. Until adequate facilities are available, many of the other problems facing the little institution can't be solved. That applies particularly to the College's recent failure to win accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Middle States turned Bloomfield down in 1954 and no one at the institution minimizes the importance of the rejection. Bloomfield at this stage can't afford false pride; accreditation or lack of it affects everything. It affects student recruiting—high school guidance officers naturally use accred-

itation as a yardstick in recommending colleges. None of the Ford Foundation money to raise faculty salaries could go to Bloomfield—regional accreditation was a number one rule of the Foundation. Until Middle State's accreditation is secured, the American Association of Theological Seminaries won't even consider accreditation.

DR. SCHWEITZER talks freely about the failure to be accredited. In fact, he took the highly unusual step of printing the report and distributing it widely. Middle States had many nice things to say about Bloomfield College & Seminary—its aims, the quality of its fulltime faculty, its good morale and the skillful adaptation of the program to the school's unquestionably limited facilities.

Nevertheless, between nearly every line could be read the big "BUT . . ." It meant, in effect: "Bloomfield needs new facilities—desperately." There is no quarreling with Middle States' categorizing the buildings as "ranging from old to very old."

New buildings can do only so much, of course. Equally important is the fact that Bloomfield College & Seminary has a purpose again; without that it couldn't have survived the Middle States' blow. The institution two decades ago had been forced by changing times to cast adrift from the purpose of the founders and by 1944 had failed to find a new philosophy, a new reason for being. The old strength, diluted by passing years, became weakness.

BACK in 1868 waves of German immigrants led to the founding in Newark of the German Theological Seminary to prepare ministers to conduct Presbyterian services in German. The Seminary moved in 1872 to the old

No longer empty, Bloomfield's "hole in the ground" is occupied by library's foundation. In rear are Knox (left) and Seibert (right) Halls. Latter, with its grilled ironwork porch (below) was erected in 1810 and occupied by the German Theological Seminary in 1872.





Bulletin board is meeting place between classes in Knox Hall. At left: Volley ball game in present cellar-gymnasium with one of supporting pillars serving as center post. New gym will go up in fall.

BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE and SEMINARY

(Continued From Preceding Page)

cation, trustees founded Bloomfield College as a separate liberal arts entity in 1926 and adopted the name Bloomfield College & Seminary. Growth didn't come—in some measure because the struggling institution failed to catch the fancy of the Presbyterian Church, and in some measure because the institution had long outlived its original usefulness.

Dr. Schweitzer, grandson of a German immigrant family, respected the traditions of the founders but he saw a new day had dawned in 1945. Time, plus cultivated generosity, might cure the physical ills, Dr. Schweitzer believed. Yet, without a true reason for existence, the right to fight for existence couldn't be justified.

BLOOMFIELD College & Seminary embarked on a bold new course, steering on two fixed stars. In the first place, Bloomfield decided to fix its place in higher education as a college and seminary where sons and daughters of low-income families could find inexpensive opportunities. Secondly, Bloomfield set about unabashedly to stress its religious roots, and the obligations of religion to the highly-industrial area of North Jersey.

Bloomfield College presented no candidates for degrees at Dr. Schweitzer's first commencement. In 1946 enrollment rose sharply and continued upward to a peak of 200 undergraduates, boosted by the surge of returned GI students. Five years of probation passed; Dr. Schweitzer won an extension, but he sorely recognized

that only moderate progress had been made.

Then came the stunning Middle States' rejection—and with it a new objective. A decade ago Bloomfield College & Seminary sought only to live. Now it must seek to live in the company of accredited brothers and sisters. That, in a way, symbolizes marked achievement—the dying man doesn't much care what company surrounds him as long as he lives.

BLOOMFIELD stepped up its building fund drive, and there seems reason to speculate that the Middle States' negation of Bloomfield's hopes may in the long run prove the pointed stimulus the institution needed at this stage of its convalescence. The first goal of the fund drive is modest—\$500,000 to build both gymnasium and library, or less than one-tenth of the cost of Firestone Library at Dr. Schweitzer's alma mater, Princeton.

Even a half million dollars loomed as an insurmountable goal last spring when the Bloomfield board of trustees met in Dr. Schweitzer's office to debate the merits of delaying the drive until better groundwork had been laid. Then, in the midst of the meeting came a telephone call—a call to ring down through the annals of Bloomfieldiana. Dr. George K. Batt, lay chairman of the campaign, took the call, listened and hung up. He turned to the directors and said:

"That was the ——— Foundation. It has decided to give us a substantial grant. All the way down to this meeting I prayed for guidance. Here it is!"

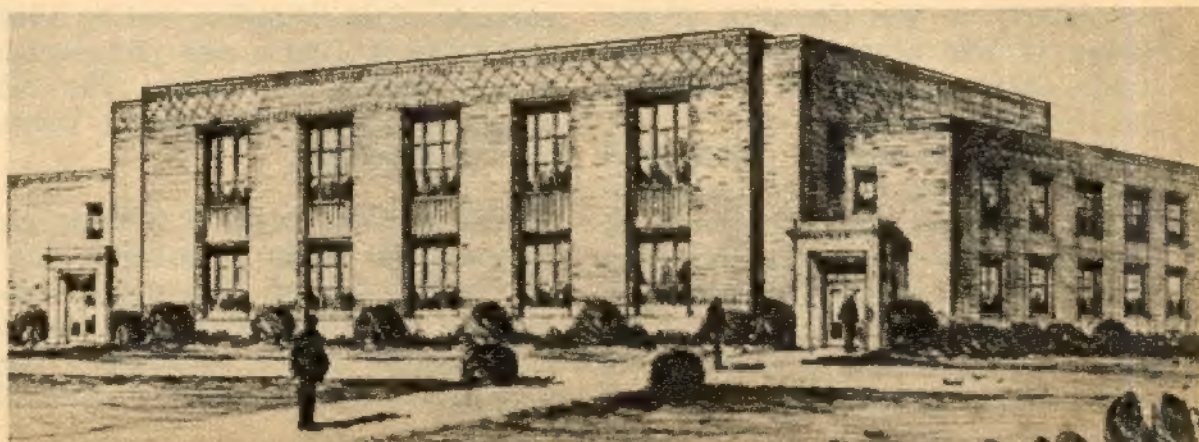
THE campaign pushed ahead. Bloomfield appealed to the New Jersey Synod of the Presbyterian Church for moral and financial support—and got it. Meetings in Atlantic City, Princeton and Summit attracted steadily increasing crowds—reaching a peak of more than 500 in Summit. The campaign raised funds, true, but equally vital, it brought the Bloomfield story home to thousands of people who a year ago might in all justice have said: "Bloomfield? Never hear of it."

Work on the new library started when commitments passed \$200,000 and as the year 1956 started, contributions pushed close to \$400,000 and close to the start of the new gymnasium. Thus, with a most propitious telephone call as a spur, a financial campaign gallops handsomely ahead. The goal of a half million dollars appears within reach.

If this means much to trustees and administrators, think of what it means to faculty and students. To the faculty it indicates that at last a wider constituency believes in Bloomfield Col-



Artist's sketches of new library and gymnasium (below) which will help college's cause in accreditation by Middle States Association.





LEFT: Chapel service, compulsory for all students, is held by Prof. Thomas Evans.

lege & Seminary. To the 175 students in the College and the 25 students in the Seminary, it symbolizes a future, and, to considerable extent, a vote of confidence in the education they are receiving.

BLOOMFIELD College and Bloomfield Seminary are intimately intertwined, because of historical antecedents and because of the shared facilities. Recent years have brought evidence the two must be separated, at least in the public mind. Accordingly, two catalogues are issued, two types of stationary are used and different appeals are made to potential undergraduates and to potential ministerial candidates.

Despite the attempt to separate the two institutions, the College still has strong Seminary overtones. One-third of the undergraduates are preparing for the ministry, a percentage which decreases as the student body increases or rises as enrollment falls, since the number of ministerial candidates is more likely to remain static than the overall size of the student body. This year's entering freshman class of 75, largest in the college's history, indicates the college is growing.

Regardless of his or her reason for coming to Bloomfield College, the student is exposed to the school's philosophy of "broad liberal education rather than narrow preparation for some specific vocation." The College declares its purpose is to give

graduates "an understanding of and a whole-hearted dedication to living the good life." Chapel is compulsory, Bible courses are required.

BLOOMFIELD College's sons and daughters go out into a wide range of vocations—into business, teaching, the professions. The College places heavy attention on its business administrative studies, housed in a separate building. Natural and social sciences are stressed, and as in any liberal arts program, the humanities are emphasized. A student may earn either a B.A. or B.S. degree in a number of varying fields of study.

Dr. Schweitzer, coming to Bloomfield as a graduate of both Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary, recognizes the current limitations of the institution. "I grant you a young man or a young woman has to have strong motivation to come to a non-accredited school," he declares. Why then do they come?

Basically most come because Bloomfield spells opportunity to people of limited means. Tuition is only \$400 per year; total costs to students living on campus are only \$825 per year—by far the lowest in New Jersey. Dr. Schweitzer hastens to point out, however, that this doesn't mean a "cheap" education; for every dollar the student puts up, Bloomfield College & Seminary adds a matching dollar. Those matching dollars have to be raised year in and year out through financial appeals; more than \$60,000 was raised for the purpose last year (over

and above the library and gymnasium appeal).

It might seem that a college in need of money should raise its tuition and its room and board charges. This apparently sound economic principle isn't applicable at Bloomfield: Dr. Schweitzer explains that "if we raise our charges we would wipe out an appreciable number of our student body." Opportunity can be disguised as a dollar sign as well as a knocking fist. Even the small fees are difficult for many at Bloomfield; nearly 70 per cent of all undergraduates work part or full time.

Granting that the College spells opportunity to many young people who might never get closer to a collegiate atmosphere than a basketball game at Madison Square Garden, why keep the Seminary going with only 25 students? The question often has been posed: Why not close it and transfer all students to Princeton Theological Seminary—also Presbyterian and beyond doubt far better equipped physically?

The time for closing is not yet here; Bloomfield Seminary again has a unique mission—to train ministers specifically for religious work in densely industrial areas such as those surrounding Newark. Bloomfield believes Protestant religious leadership has sagged distressingly in industrial sections. It feels its ministers trained to meet the challenge of the rough-and-tumble struggle of city religious work will succeed. Several of its graduates have won national attention

for their work in industrial religious programs.

BLOOMFIELD College, once wholly subordinated to and oriented in the direction of the Seminary, is making its own life. In the long run the College is likely to be a stronger local educational influence than the Seminary. Of the College's 178 graduates in the past seven years, 112—63 per cent—have gone on to further study in 38 different graduate schools or seminaries. Many go into the ministry, but even of these a large proportion go elsewhere than Bloomfield Seminary for graduate study.

Every high school graduate who applies at Bloomfield College is told frankly that the college is not accredited. Every applicant is shown through the "old to very old" buildings. No effort is made to sell the advantages of Gothic architecture or swimming pools; the college has no such wares. Bloomfield College recognizes with full candor that it can sell mainly opportunity at the moment.

That accounts for the apparently high student morale. Undergraduates crowd through the halls, climb the time-worn stairs, endure the cramped quarters of the library. They travel off campus for even their "home" basketball and baseball games. If they realize that practically every other college has better physical facilities, they try to balance an awareness that knowledge can be sought as an end in itself in humble quarters rather than as a chance commodity to be stumbled over in marble halls.

ON Dr. Schweitzer's office wall there hangs an architect's impression of the Bloomfield College and Seminary of the future. Remaining in that impressive architect's drawn vision of the coming years are Seibert Hall (the original Bloomfield Academy building erected in 1810) and Knox Hall (the Corinthian-type structure built in 1913). Behind them on the drawing is the rest of a quadrangle, with classroom buildings and dormitories, the library, a dining hall and a chapel.

This institution-on-the-wall and in Bloomfield's dreams envisions 600 college students and 100 seminary students. This proposed Bloomfield-of-the-future is a fully accredited institution, strong and respected and handsome. In the dreams of better days to be, this is a quadrangle where Bloomfield residents will escort visiting friends and say: "Here is our beautiful college!" This is a college where students will eagerly seek admittance.

That's the future. That's the dream. Right now the "most beautiful sight in the world" is a modest brick library building rising in an excavation. The second most beautiful sight in all this world (from a Bloomfield College viewpoint) will be a gymnasium. If the ability to spell opportunity, plus an appreciation of the joy of just being alive 11 years after a planned funeral can carry all the way, Bloomfield's quadrangle should be counted as sure.